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**From:** NIMS-Integration-Center  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 09, 2006 1:08 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: State Level Departmental Emergency Operations Centers

Thank you for contacting the NIMS Integration Center,

NIMS characterize Emergency Operations Centers as "multi-agency coordination centers" and as such they do not have to be organized around ICS. The NIMS states in the Command and Management chapter (chapter 2, section B) that "EOCs are organized by major functional discipline (fire, law enforcement, medical services, and so on); by jurisdiction (city, county, region, and so on); or, more likely, by some combination thereof." To be compliant with NIMS, states and locals must focus on the core functions to be performed in the EOC (coordination; communications; resource dispatch and tracking; and information collection, analysis and dissemination). "The physical size, staffing and equipping of an EOC will depend on the size of the jurisdiction, resources available and anticipated incident management workload. EOCs may be organized and staffed in a variety of ways." This underscores the inherent flexibility of the NIMS.

Regards,

**NIMS Integration Center**

-----Original Message-----

**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2006 1:40 PM  
**To:** NIMS-Integration-Center,  
**Subject:** State Level Departmental Emergency Operations Centers

To Whom It Concerns;

My reading of the NIMS document has lead to some confusion over the intent of how to operationally organize a departmental EOC. NIMS seems to imply a strict adherence to the concepts and principals of the ICS System in developing operational organization and procedures for how an EOC should operate; at least this is how NIMS guidance is being interpreted by the less informed and experienced. It would be greatly appreciated if I could get some clarification on the intent of NIMS

compliance when it comes to EOC staffing organizational structures and procedures. I recognize that NIMS (page 27) indicates that the EOC ... "should include the following core functions: coordination; communications; resource dispatch and tracking; and information collection, analysis, and dissemination."; however, how does NIMS see these core functions represented in an organizational structure?

In addition to the above there is the question regarding the use of ICS forms internal to the EOC function. What guidance, related experience or examples, can you provide regarding the use of standardized forms in the EOC environment.